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WORLD

The End of the World

The Major and Minor Signs of the Hour

With illustrations and maps

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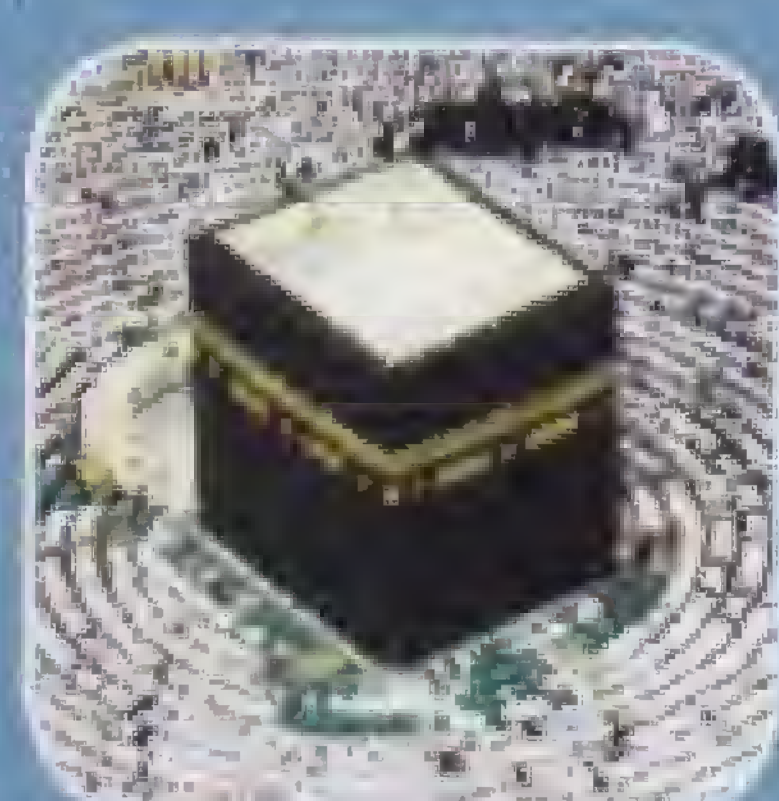
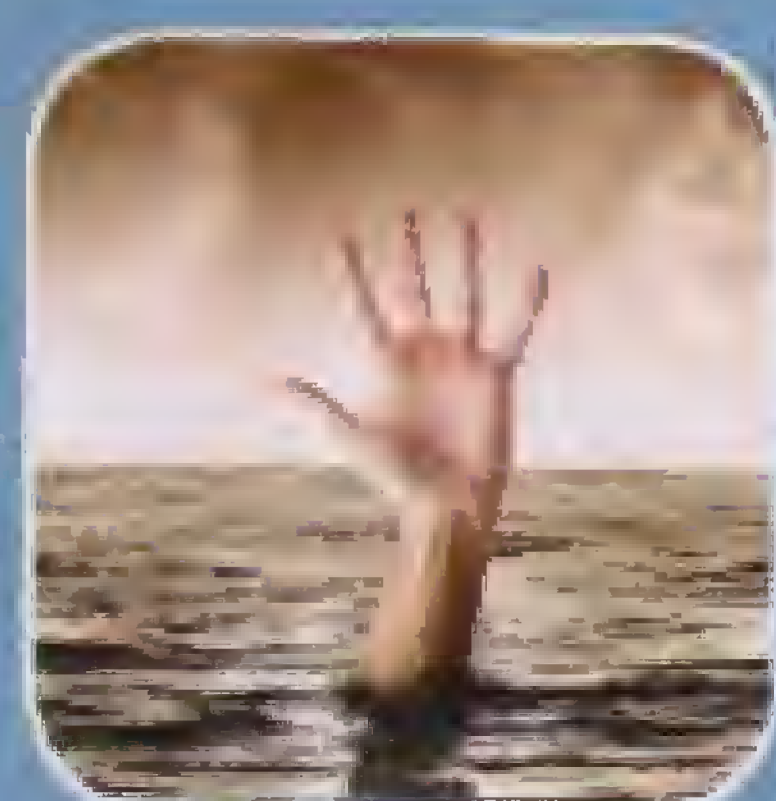


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Introduction

In the name of Allah,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, and blessings and peace be upon the leader of the Prophets and Messengers, our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and Companions.

In recent times things have become very confusing and we have begun to see in bookstores and on websites speculation about future events, based on Verses and *Hadeeths* which refer to future events having to do with the signs of the Hour.

Every time a calamity befalls Islam and the *Muslims*, people begin to look for a way out from them. Sometimes you hear about the appearance of the Mahdi, sometimes you hear that the time for the final major battle against the Jews and Christians is close at hand, other times you hear about landslides in the East or in the West, and so forth.

I once visited a country in African and I witnessed a man claiming that he was the Messiah, 'Eesa ibn Maryam ﷺ, who had come back to earth.

It is essential, indeed, necessary, to explain the signs of the Hour, speak about their true meaning, and understand them [in that light]; thus, the reason for this book which you have in your hands.

I would like to thank all those who read this book before its publication and offered me their comments, foremost among them are Shaykh Dr. Salman ibn Fahd Al-Oadah, Shaykh Dr. 'Abd Al-'Azeez Aal 'Abd Al-Lateef, Shaykh Al-Muhaddith 'Abd Al-'Azeez Al-Turayfi, and others whose help I will never forget. I ask Allah to make this book beneficial, to make it sincerely for His sake, and to cause it to be among the beneficial knowledge that will testify for us on the Day of Resurrection. *Aameen.*

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Why discuss the signs of the Hour?

Everything that a person tries to find out about and discussion should have some benefits that he will reap from his research and efforts.

Does researching about the signs of the Hour and learning about them offer us any benefit in our lives? Or is it mere information which a person adds to his cultural credit without it having any real impact on his life?

Since mention of the signs of the Hour are found in the Qur'an and *Sunnah* (Prophetic tradition), it therefore brings many benefits to one's life, including the following:

1. Fulfilling the obligation of believing in the unseen, which is one of the six pillars of Faith. Allah says,

﴿الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ﴾

"Who believe in the *Ghayb*⁽¹⁾ and perform *As-Salaah* (*Iqaamat-as-Salaah*)" [Al-Baqarah 2:3].

Abu Hurayrah رضي الله عنه narrated said that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

"I have been commanded to fight the people until they say laa ilaaha ill-Allah. Whoever says laa ilaaha ill-Allah, his wealth and his life are protected from me except in cases dictated by

(1) *Al-Ghayb*: literally means a thing not seen. This includes belief in Allah, the Angels, the Holy Books, Allah's Messengers, the Day of Resurrection, and *Al-Qadar* (Divine Pre-ordainment). [From the footnote by Hilali and Khan]

8. Satisfying the natural curiosity of a person who wants to find out what is hidden from him and learn what may happen in the future based on *Saheeh* reports concerning the unseen matters.

Islam blocks the way for deceivers, such as astrologers, fortune tellers, soothsayers and their like, who claim to have knowledge of future events. Islam relates to us, through revelation, a great about these future events which are signs of the Hour.

9. Belief in the signs of the Hour strengthens and increases Faith. When these signs occur, it confirms the truth of the religion that you are following.

There are other benefits [in having knowledge of these things] which would have an impact on our lives.



Guidelines on dealing with and understanding the Signs of the Hour

The scholars, both past and present, have written numerous books concerning the signs leading up to the Hour. Books still appear, along with Television, radio programmes, and Internet websites speaking about the signs of the Hour; some of them speak of the signs of the Hour in a manner indicating their confusion and error on the subject.

I deemed it necessary to list a number of guidelines when dealing with and understanding the signs of the Hour and the legislative texts that mention them.

Limiting to the texts of the Qur'an and

Saheeh Sunnah when quoting evidence

These are the source from which we come to know about matters of the unseen.

﴿قُلْ لَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ الْغَيْبَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ أَيَّانَ يُبْعَثُونَ﴾

"Say: 'None in the heavens and the earth knows the Ghayib (Unseen) except Allah, nor can they perceive when they shall be resurrected.' "[Al-Naml 27:65]

﴿عَلِيمُ الْغَيْبِ فَلَا يُظْهِرُ عَلَى غَيْبِهِ أَحَدًا﴾ (١٦) إِلَّا مَنِ ارْتَضَىٰ مِنْ رَسُولٍ

فَإِنَّهُ يَسْلُكُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ رَصَدًا﴾ (١٧)

Except to a Messenger (from mankind) whom He has chosen (He informs him of the Unseen as much as He likes), and then He

Hadeeth occurred at such and such time, this would need proof from a text or reasoning. If there no proof exists then it is not appropriate for the sincere believer, who was commanded to be careful, to speak about the legislative issues without knowledge.

**(ii): Doing something that is not prescribed
or giving up something that is prescribed**

Some people read books that speak off the appearance of the Mahdi and in which the author is certain that the Mahdi is so-and-so. Some readers decide to wait for the Mahdi, organising their affairs on the basis that he is going to emerge. Some of them even buy a horse and a sword in preparation for the great battles that is to come.

Some of them do not get married or build a family for the reason that the emergence of the Dajjaal is imminent, and so on.

**(iii): It leads to many bad consequences
such as disbelieving in Allah and His Messenger ﷺ**

If, for example, it is said that what is meant by the Mahdi is so-and-so, and this turns out to be false, then this may lead some people to reject the *Hadeeths* that mention the Mahdi. The same may also occur with the other signs of the Hour, if one explains them with certainty and connects them to some real-life events [and it proves to be false].



Meanings of the Signs of the Hour

Signs

Ashraat (sing. shart) refers to the signs and causes of the Hour. They are signs after which the Hour will begin.⁽¹⁾

The Hour

The Hour is the time when the Resurrection will begin. It is called the Hour (Al-saa'ah) because it will come suddenly upon the people; in a brief moment at the sound of a sing shout or blowing [of the horn] they will all die (sayhah waahidah)⁽²⁾.

(1) See Al-Jawhari: *Al-Sihaah*, 3/136; Ibn Al-Atheer: *Ghareeb Al-Hadeeth*, 2/460

(2) See Ibn Al-Atheer: *Ghareeb Al-Hadeeth*, 2/460

Categories of the Signs of the Hour

The signs of the Hour may be divided into two categories:

Minor signs

Minor signs . These are of two types

(a): Signs that occur far earlier than the Hour

These are signs that have already appeared and finished; they are minor signs because the time in which they occurred is far earlier than the beginning of the Hour. Examples are the sending of the Prophet ﷺ, the splitting of the moon, and the emergence of a great fire in Madeenah.⁽¹⁾

(b): Middle signs

(Those which are neither earlier nor close to the Hour)

These are signs which have appeared but have not yet concluded, instead they are increasing; there are many of these types. They are also minor signs, which we shall see below, include: the slave woman giving birth to her mistress, the naked and barefoot shepherds competing in the construction of lofty buildings, and the emergence of thirty impostors who claim to be prophets.⁽²⁾

(1) These will be discussed under Minor Signs 1, 3 and 13.

(2) These signs will be discussed under 19, 21 and 11

Major signs

The Hour will follow after the appearance of these signs. These are the major signs, none of which have yet appeared.

Hudhayfah ؓ related that the Prophet ﷺ once came out to us while we were talking to one another, and said,

"What are you talking about?" They said, "We are talking about the Hour." He said, "It will not begin until you see ten signs." He mentioned them as:

1. The smoke
2. The Dajjaal
3. The Beast
4. The rising of the sun from its place of setting
5. The descent of 'Eesa ibn Maryam ؑ
6. Ya'jooj and Ma'jooj

Three landslides:

1. A landslide in the East
2. A landslide in the West
3. A landslide in Arabia
4. The final sign will be a fire which will emerge from Yemen and drive the people to their place of gathering.⁽¹⁾

Some other *Hadeeths* mention the Mahdi, the destruction of the Ka'bah, and the disappearance of the Qur'an from the earth. We will discuss the *Hadeeths* on these topics below.⁽²⁾

(1) Narrated by Muslim, from the *Hadeeth* of Hudhayfah ibn Usayd. These signs will be discussed in the second part of the book, the Major Signs of the Hour.

(2) These signs will be discussed under Minor Signs 131, 126 and 121

2 The Death of our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

The tragedy of his death is one of the first signs of the approach of the Hour. 'Awf ibn Maalik ؓ said,

"I came to the Prophet ﷺ during the campaign of Tabook when he was in a leather tent and he said, "Count six things prior to the Hour: my death, the conquest of Jerusalem, death which will spread among you like qu'aas (murrain)⁽¹⁾ affects sheep, abundant wealth where a man will be given one hundred dinars and will not be content [i.e., people will have a great deal of wealth and they will be so rich that a man will not be happy with anything except thousands of dinars], turmoil in which no household among the Arabs will be unaffected, a truce drawn between you and Banu'l-Asfar⁽²⁾ which they will break and will come to you under eighty banners beneath each of which will be twelve thousand."⁽³⁾

The death of the Prophet ﷺ was one of the greatest calamities to befall the Muslims, and Madeenah grew gloomy for the Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) when he died.

With his death, Revelation from heaven ceased and turmoil appeared with the apostasy from Islam of some of the Arabs.

(1) Qu'aas (murrain): a disease that affects sheep and goats, and causes instantaneous death. [E.W. Lane: Arabic-English Lexicon]

(2) Banu'l-Asfar: The Romans or Byzantines; today they are the Europeans and Americans.

(3) Narrated by Al-Bukhaari; we will discuss these signs in detail below.

3 The Splitting of the Moon

Allah says:

﴿أَقْرَبَتِ السَّاعَةُ وَانْشَقَّ الْقَمَرُ ۚ وَإِنْ يَرَوْا آيَةً يُعَرِّضُوا
وَيَقُولُوا سِحْرٌ مُسْتَمِرٌّ ۚ﴾

"The Hour has drawn near, and the moon has been cleft asunder (the people of Makkah requested Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to show them a miracle, so he showed them the splitting of the moon).

2. And if they see a sign, they turn away, and say: 'This is continuous magic.'" [Al-Qamar 54:1-2]

Al-Haafiz Ibn Katheer (may Allah have mercy upon him) said:

"This occurred at the time of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, as related by way of Saheeh, mutawaatir Hadeeths. There is a scholarly consensus on this: the splitting of the moon occurred during the time of the Prophet ﷺ and it was one of the most prominent miracles."⁽¹⁾

Anas ؓ said, *"The people of Makkah asked the Messenger ﷺ to show them a sign, so he showed them the splitting of the moon."* ⁽²⁾

(1) Tafseer Ibn Katheer, 7/472

(2) Agreed upon.

Image published by space agencies of a clear cleft in the surface of the moon]



12

Spread of Security and Prosperity

For a while, the Muslims who lived in Makkah and Madeenah lived in a situation where they were either fighting their enemies or expecting war and battles. The Prophet ﷺ told them that with the passage of time and as the Hour approaches near, security and prosperity would become widespread. He ﷺ said,

"The Hour will not come until the land of the Arabs goes back to being meadows with rivers, the traveller between Iraq and Makkah fears nothing but losing his way⁽¹⁾, and until there is a great deal of Harj."⁽²⁾ They said, "Messenger of Allah, what is Harj?" He said, "Killing."⁽²⁾

This is confirmed by what the Prophet ﷺ said to 'Adiyy ibn Haatim ؓ, *"O 'Adiyy, have you seen Al-Heerah⁽³⁾?"* I said, *"I have never seen it but I have been told about it."* He said, *"If you live a long life, you will see a woman travelling from Al-Heerah until she comes and circumambulates the Ka'bah, and she will fear no one but Allah."⁽⁴⁾*

There will be abundant wealth, by Allah's leave, and at the time of the Mahdi and 'Eesa ؑ, justice, instead of injustice and wrongdoing, will prevail. Allah knows best.⁽⁵⁾



(1) Meaning, he will not fear bandits or thieves; he will only fear losing his way and getting lost, but his life and his wealth will be safe.

(2) Recorded by Ahmad in *Al-Musnad*. Al-Haythami said: Its narrators are the men of *Saheeh*. It also appears in *Saheeh Muslim*.

(3) A town in Iraq, located three miles from Kufah.

(4) Recorded by Al-Bukhaari.

(5) We will discuss this in detail below, under the heading of Minor Sign 131 and Major Sign 2

13

Appearance of Fire in the Hijaz

One of the signs of the Hour which the Messenger of Allah ﷺ spoke of was the emergence of a fire from the land of Hijaz, near Madeenah Al-Munawwarah. Some of the scholars and historians have stated that this sign appeared in 654 AH.

Al-Haafiz Ibn Katheer ؓ, speaking about this event, said, *"The appearance of a fire in the Hijaz, which illuminated the necks of camels in Busra,⁽¹⁾ occurred as related in the Hadeeth. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,*

"The Hour will not begin until fire emerges from the land of Hijaz"

(1) The city of Hooran in Syria.





[Pakistan (Balacot) October 2005]

73 A lot of earthquakes

What is meant by the occurrence of numerous earthquakes prior to the beginning of the Hour is that they will occur everywhere and happen all the time. This may be a mercy for the *Ummah* and expiation for its sins, as narrated by Abu Moosa Al-Ash'ari رضي الله عنه, from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ who said, "My *Ummah* is a nation that is blessed; it will not be punished in the Hereafter because Allah has caused its punishment to come in this world, in the form of killing, earthquakes, and turmoil."⁽¹⁾

Or it may be a punishment for people who have indulged in a great amount of corruption; the earthquake being a punishment for the people

(1) Recorded by Ahmad and Al-Haakim, who classed it as *Saheeh*.

of that time.

Abu Hurayrah رضي الله عنه narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said, "The Hour will not begin until knowledge is taken away and many earthquakes occur."⁽¹⁾

'Abd-Allaah ibn Hawaalah Al-Azdi رضي الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "Ibn Hawaalah, when you see the caliphate settled in the Holy Land, earthquakes, calamities, and tremendous events will have drawn near. On that day the Last Hour will be nearer to mankind than this hand of mine to your head."⁽²⁾



[Pakistan (Balacot) October 2005]



[Earthquake in China 2004]

(1) Recorded by Al-Bukhaari.

(2) Recorded by Abu Dawood.

109 People will go back to ancient weapons and mounts

We have seen this in [the battles described in] Minor Signs 105 and 106 above. The Prophet ﷺ said,

"While they are like that, they will hear of an even greater calamity. The cry will reach them, 'The Dajjaal has taken your place among your families.' So they will throw aside whatever is in their hands and will go there, sending ten horsemen ahead of them as scouts." The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "I know their names, and the names of their fathers, and the colour of their horses. They will be the best horsemen on the face of the earth at that time or among the best horsemen on the face of the earth at that time."⁽¹⁾



(1) Recorded by Ahmad and Muslim.



110 - 111

Jerusalem will flourish
Madeenah will be in ruins,
devoid of inhabitants and visitors

Mu'aadh ibn Jabal ؓ narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, *"When Jerusalem flourishes, Yathrib will be in ruins; when Yathrib is in ruins, the great battle will occur; when the great battle occurs, Constantinople will be conquered; and when Constantinople is conquered, the Dajjaal will appear."* Then Mu'aadh ibn Jabal ؓ struck the thigh or shoulder of the one to whom he was speaking with his hand and said, *"This is as true, as you are sitting here."*⁽¹⁾

What is meant by Yathrib being in ruins is that Al-Madeenah Al-Munawwarah will be devoid of inhabitants and visitors.

According to another narration, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

(1) Recorded by Abu Dawood; it is a *Hasan Hadeeth*, as stated above